

# Father's Notes

March 2, 2025

I'll be back by the time you read this, but as I write this, I am in Indiana visiting my parents and sister, where they live and where I'm from. I'm blessed and grateful to visit them, especially as my parents continue to advance in age (they both turn 88 years old, later in 2025). As their needs for assistance increase, I'm so thankful for my sister, Beth. A few years back, there were three siblings to help when needs arise. My sister Amy died of cancer in November 2021 and my brother Scott died of a heart episode in June 2022. I'm the youngest of the four. At times, I'll confess, it's hard to be so far away, and so it's a blessing to be here for these six days. During this time away, I'm grateful to the priests who came to cover Masses (Fr. Fabian MacDonald and Fr. Chuong Cao, CSsR).

I'll be back in the parishes during the week, but I'll leave again for the weekend to serve as a chaplain for a Project Rachel retreat (Fri, Feb 28 – Sun, Mar 2). You may know that Project Rachel is a ministry of the Archdiocese whose aim is to help women (and men) post-abortion, to find healing and to know that they are loved, as they reconcile with their decision(s). Some people desire to attend the retreats for this purpose. I'm privileged and grateful to have been asked to serve as chaplain. Father Rob Evenson will cover my Masses for the weekend, for which I'm grateful.

As this note to you will be in the bulletin for the weekend of March 1st and 2nd, Ash Wednesday will be soon ahead of us. On our website, you'll find a **schedule of all our Ash Wednesday liturgies**, but here it is again:

St. Thomas - 7:30am Word & Ashes (Spanish); 9:00am Mass (English); 5:30pm Mass (Spanish); and 7:00pm Mass (English)

St. Philomena - 7:30am Word & Ashes (English); 8:30am Mass with Parish School (English); 12:00pm Word & Ashes (English); 5:30pm Mass (English); and 7:00pm Mass (Spanish)

As you can see, there are three liturgies that are not Mass, thus we do not distribute the Eucharist. I'm grateful to Deacon Abel and Deacon Jerry for officiating these liturgies and thus expanding the range of offerings. I trust and hope that at either St. Thomas or St. Philomena, we've got something that works for you.

By the way, we intend to distribute Rice Bowls (for Catholic Relief Services) at the Masses for the 1st Sunday of Lent. I am sure I speak for Fr. Ben in saying that we look forward to this first Season of Lent with you.



**Father Todd O. Strange** (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)